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News and Events

President Maimon Opens Another Exciting Semester at GSU



In her letter on the first day of the Spring, 2013 semester, President Elaine P. Maimon welcomes students and other members of the GSU community to a vibrant, memorable term at our university.

Dr. Maimon reflects on the contributions of great leaders like President Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and how they have inspired the pragmatic idealism that is a cornerstone of Governors State University.

President Maimon Read [Dr. Maimon's letter](#).

So You Think You Can Innovate? Roberta Ness to Present at GSU March 7 and 8

Renowned speaker Dr. Roberta Ness, M.D., M.P.H., will be on GSU's campus this spring. Dr. Ness, a recognized expert in women's health research, is dean of The University of Texas School of Public Health and author of *Innovation Generation*. Dr. Ness is featured speaker at the third GSU symposium on the First Year Experience, and will also present a lecture that is free and open to the GSU community. On Thursday, March 7, Dr. Ness will lecture in the evening at the Center for Performing Arts, and on Friday, March 8, she will address faculty and administration about how to infuse innovation into your work and your life.



Dr. Ness holds the M. David Low Chair in Public Health. She is a professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control, and Vice President for Innovation at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science, a fellow of the American College of Physicians, and past-President of the American College of Epidemiology. She is President of the American Epidemiological Society.

In 2011, Dr. Ness was invited to speak about innovation at a TED conference. A link to her TED talk is below:

Dr. Roberta Ness

<http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/TEDxHouston-2011-Roberta-B-Ness>

If you received an e-mail to attend the March 8 symposium, a continental breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will also be provided and the day's work should conclude by 4:30 p.m.

RSVPs are required for this event. RSVP to [Penny Perdue](#) at ext. 4130.

WFLD Fox 32's Political Editor Mike Flannery Will Moderate GSU's Second Congressional District Forum – February 7

GSU will host a forum for candidates seeking the vacant Congressional seat in Illinois' Second District. The forum, in GSU's Center for Performing Arts, takes place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 7.



During the forum, candidates will be asked how they can best serve the residents of the Second District, which includes sections of Chicago's south side and parts of southern Cook County, areas in Will County, and all of Kankakee County. Mike Flannery, Political Editor for WFLD FOX 32, will moderate the forum, which is free and open to the public.

The Second District Congressional seat was held for 17 years by Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., a Chicago Democrat. He resigned November 22, citing reasons of health. Seventeen Democrats and five Republicans have filed to run for the Second District seat. The primary election takes place February 26, with the special election for the seat to follow on April 9.

Mike Flannery

In presenting the forum, GSU is partnering with League of Women Voters chapters in Homewood-Flossmoor, Dolton-Harvey-Riverdale, and the Park Forest area, and Mikva Challenge, a nonpartisan 501(c)3 organization that prioritizes the development of civic leadership in underserved Chicago high school youth.

Swing into Spring at Welcome Week Events

Welcome back, students. A full slate of activities is scheduled for spring semester Welcome Week, taking place through next Monday.

Activities include:

- January 20 to 22 – Student trip to Presidential Inauguration and MLK Memorial
- January 22 to 23 – Uniform ID Validation, noon to 6 p.m., Hall of Governors
- January 22 – Student Resource Fair and Secretary of State mobile services, noon to 6 p.m., Hall of Governors
- January 23 - Campus Crawl, 3 to 6 p.m. Get to know your university by visiting GSU departments and collecting seals on your Campus Crawl Card. Cards will be distributed in the Hall of Governors. Completed cards can be redeemed for prizes and refreshments in the Student Commons (A2140).
- January 24 – Hypnotist Jim Wand, 6 to 8 p.m., Sherman Recital Hall
- January 25 – Students Welcome Back Skate, 6 to 8 p.m., Rich City Roller Rink, 4645 Sauk Trail, Richton Park
- January 26 – Braid Tales, 8 p.m., Center for Performing Arts
- January 28 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Center for Performing Arts

Welcome Week activities are sponsored by Student Life. For further information, contact [Sheree Sanderson](#).

IAI Sessions Begin This Week

The Provost's Office is offering information sessions for faculty about the steps GSU is taking to transition from being a "receiving only" to a "fully participating" university within the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI).

A complete schedule of the information sessions, which are taking place between January 23 and February 14, is listed on the [provost's website](#).

Sessions will focus on navigation of the [IAI website](#) to find the expectations for General Education and discipline specific (lower division) course development in addition to the timeline for the GSU approval process. Sessions will also provide information about how faculty can be nominated to serve on the state-wide oversight panels that review IAI courses. The IAI is a statewide transfer agreement among more than 100 participating colleges and universities in Illinois.

Who should attend? The two sessions sponsored by the Faculty Scholarship and Teaching Center, on January 23 and 24, are particularly suited as a general overview of IAI, [General Education Core Curriculum](#) expectations, timelines/deadlines, and the approval process. The "focus on" sessions will provide the specific expectations associated with the listed disciplines. Faculty who are/will be writing curriculum for General Education courses and/or writing lower division curriculum for submission to IAI "Majors Panels" will want to attend, particularly if you are unfamiliar with IAI course guidelines. Chairs and directors are particularly invited to attend the "focus on" sessions in order to provide IAI guidance to colleagues for their respective colleges.

The deadline for submitting courses to [Dr. Randi Schneider](#), Director of Academic Engagement, is June 14.

Braid Tales Lecture Explores Hip Hop Pedagogy

Hip Hop music, poetry, and dance – and how they can be used as an educational tool – will be discussed during a special pre-performance lecture event at 5 p.m., on Thursday, January 24, in Engbretson Hall.

Braid Tales - the ZigZags and Twists of Urban Classroom Pedagogy will explore the relationship between youth development work, Hip Hop performance, and educational efforts at Kuumba Lynx, a Chicago-based arts and education organization.

Kuumba Lynx's touring production, *Braid Tales*, will be presented at 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 26, at the Center for Performing Arts.

Panel members at the January 24 lecture include moderator Dr. Rashidah Muhammad, Professor of English and Secondary Education; Jacinda Bullie, co-founder of Kuumba Lynx; Jaquanda Villegas, co-executive director of Kuumba Lynx; Keith Redmond, a member of Kuumba Lynx Adult Ensemble; and Dr. Patrick Santoro, Assistant Professor, Division of Communications, Visual, and Performing Arts.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Braid Tales at CPA – January 26

Braid Tales brings the language and stories of the streets to life in a multi-dimensional production. The Kuumba Lynx Peace Poets and FootworKINGz, a top finalist on America's Best Dance crew, weave real life stories through Hip Hop theater, spoken word, and graffiti art. The amazing South Shore Drill team, fresh from its performance at Monday's Inauguration Parade in Washington, D.C., will also perform.

Braid Tales is at the Center for Performing Arts for one show only, at 8 p.m., on Saturday, January 26.

Braid Tales is part of GSU Center's 2012-2013 One More Night series, which brings the finest in Chicago-area theatre, dance, and music to local audiences. One More Night is made possible by a generous grant from The Chicago Community Trust.

Watch this [*Braid Tales* preview](#).

Tickets for *Braid Tales* are \$30, \$10 for college students, and \$5 for high school students. To purchase tickets, or for further information, contact the GSU Center box office at 708).235.2222. Student discounts are only available by phone or in person and require a valid school ID.

Zumba Your Way to a Healthy 2013

Are you ready to dance away those unwanted pounds? Zumba involves dance and aerobic elements and is at the leading edge of the fitness industry. Getting fit has never been this much fun!

Zumba will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation and Fitness Center. Classes will be held from Tuesday, January 29 to Thursday, April 18. The fee is \$10 for GSU students, \$40 for Recreation and Fitness Center members, and \$100 for non-members.

Contact the [Recreation and Fitness Center](#) at 708.534.4556.

GSU Black Women Rock

In celebration of Black History Month, the first *GSU Black Women Rock* award ceremony is coming in February.

GSU Black Women Rock is an acknowledgment of black women who are making or have made strides in the following areas:

- Sistah Philanthropist: a person engaged in civic activities
- Literary Expressionist: a writer, poet, etc.
- Passionate Advocate: a political or social advocate
- Creative Soul: film producer, performing artist, script writer, etc.
- Miz Entrepreneur: a sole proprietor or partner in a business endeavor

Finalists will be selected by the Black History Month Committee. All nominees will be invited to the award ceremony, to be held February 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. in Sherman Hall.

Nomination Criteria: Only GSU students are eligible to be nominated. All nominations must be submitted via Survey Monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSUBlackWomenRock>.

Nominations must be at least 300 words, describing accomplishments and awards, with an explanation of why nominees deserve the *GSU Black Women Rock* award. Nominations will be accepted from students, faculty, staff, and community members, as well as self-nominations.

The cutoff date for nominations is Monday, February 11. So, ready, set, nominate!

Make a Difference on GSU Student Senate

GSU's Student Senate is currently looking for a few good students. If you are interested in representing your fellow students and making a difference, get involved in student governance. Applications are currently being accepted for college representatives, Board of Trustee Representative, and Illinois Board of Higher Education Representative for the March elections.

For Student Senate packets, go to the Student Clubs Resource Fair, the Student Life Office (A2104), select Student Life bulletin boards, or visit www.govst.edu/studentsenate.

Qualifications and responsibilities are listed in the Student Senate packet. For more information, contact [Sheree Sanderson](#).

Streamline Tax Process with Electronic W-2

You can streamline your personal tax process by signing up for an electronic W-2 form. Financial Services is offering GSU employees the option to update their employee profile through GSU's online portal to consent to receiving an electronic W-2. Signing up for the service allows all employees to access, view, and print their W-2 forms.

Your W-2 will be available for viewing and printing on or before January 31, 2013. All GSU employees will receive an electronic communication when the W-2s have been updated in Datatel Colleague.

Sign up today for an electronic W-2 by following the steps in this [memo](#).

Minority Internships Available at GSU

The Minority Internship Program (MIP) is designed specifically for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at GSU, Chicago State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Eastern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University. The program is open to African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans (or Pacific Islanders), Native Americans, and Alaskan Natives.

The program provides students with the opportunity to observe and participate in the practical aspects of public policy making in a variety of off-campus settings. While the emphasis is on local and state government agencies, students may complete their internships in a number of other agencies that may be more relevant to their majors and career aspirations.

Applications for the MIP program are currently being accepted for the fall semester. The application deadline is February 5. Applicant selection is very competitive. Download an [application](#).

For additional information contact [Sheree Sanderson](#) at 708.534.4552.

GSU Food Pantry Helps Students

With the start of the spring semester, GSU's food pantry is open from 3 to 6 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. The food pantry is a resource to assist GSU students during difficult times. Students need only to present their validated ID card to receive service.

The food pantry needs students to assist with this important on-campus resource. If you are interested in volunteering at the food pantry, contact [Chris Cook](#).

Donations of food for the pantry may be dropped off in Student Life (A2100) or in the food bins around the university.

Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Applications Being Accepted

Applications are being accepted for the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois program, a statewide initiative designed to increase the number of minority full-time tenure track faculty and staff at Illinois' two- and four-year, public and private colleges and universities. Applicants must be admitted to a master's or doctoral program at a participating institution at the time of application. If admitted to the program, they must enroll as a full-time student as defined by the institution.

Both new and renewal applicants must contact Sheree Sanderson, assistant dean of students, regarding their intent to apply or receive additional information. New applicants must obtain a special access code to complete their online eligibility check. Priority consideration will be given to applications in STEM areas, particularly mathematics and science.

Deadline for DFI applications for the 2013-2014 academic year is February 18, at 4 p.m.

Students interested in applying can attend an information session on Monday, January 28, at 3:30 p.m., in A2134.

More information about DFI is available at www.ibhe.state.il.us/DFI/default.htm. For additional information contact [Sheree Sanderson](#).

